

Message Text

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E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CVIS, UR, US

SUBJ: SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR SAN FRANCISCO CORRESPONDENT

REF: A. MOSCOW 14940

B. MOSCOW 13031

1. VISIT OF ACYPL JOURNALIST DELEGATION PROVIDED OPPORTUNITY FOR SOVIETS TO REITERATE QUESTION OF SAN FRANCISCO BASED CORRESPONDENT FOR KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA. PAPER'S CANDIDATE FOR SAN FRANCISCO ASSIGNMENT, NIKOLAI OREKHOV, WHO TRAVELLED WITH DELEGATION THROUGHOUT SOVIET TOUR, WAS FIRST TO ASK IF ANY DECISION REACHED. TOLD THE US HAD RECEIVED NO FORMAL ANSWER TO EMBASSY'S DIPLOMATIC NOTE (REF B), OREKHOV DROPPED THE MATTER. LATER, ACYPL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OLIVER WAS TOLD BY CHIEF EDITOR KORNISHOV OF KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA THAT PAPER CONTINUED TO HOPE FOR US APPROVAL OF SOVIET REQUEST. KORNISHOV DID NOT TELL OLIVER ABOUT US PROPOSAL FOR RECIPROCITY IN FORM OF NOTE-FREE MOSCOW-LENINGRAD TRAVEL FOR US JOURNALISTS.

2. LAST APPROACH MUCH MORE SPECIFIC. FORMER NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT FOR KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, ANATOLIY MANAKOV, CONFIDENTIAL

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ASKED IF US HAD PERSONAL OBJECTION TO OREKHOV. ASSURED

THIS NOT THE CASE, MANAKOV SAID US PROPOSAL FOR NOTE-FREE TRAVEL NOT TRUE RECIPROCITY AND FURTHERMORE US DID NOT ALLOW SUCH TRAVEL FOR SOVIET JOURNALISTS IN US. HE QUICKLY BACKED OFF WHEN TOLD WHOLE ISSUE OF TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS WAS OF SOVIET ORIGIN. INFORMED THAT US HAD NO OBJECTION IN PRINCIPLE TO SOVIET PROPOSAL, MANAKOV SAID HE UNDERSTOOD DESIRE FOR SOMETHING IN RETURN BUT THAT US PROPOSAL WAS "COMPLICATED" AND "DIFFICULT."

3. CONSIDERING REPEATED INFORMAL INDICATIONS OF SOVIET INTEREST IN SAN FRANCISCO POST, EMBASSY WONDERS IF DEPARTMENT EVER APPROACHED BY UPI PRESIDENT CONCERNING POSSIBLE UPI LENINGRAD OFFICE. (REF A)

4. FYI: OREKHOV MADE VERY FAVORABLE IMPRESSION ON YOUNG AMERICAN JOURNALISTS AND ON EMBASSY OFFICER ESCORT. QUIET AND UNASSUMING, HE IS A YOUNG MAN WHO EVIDENCED GENUINE INTEREST IN THE US.
MATLOCK

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